



# PRESS RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 6, 2007

2007-001

U.S. Agency for International Development

Strategic Development Office (503) 2501-3471

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (503) 2501-2471

Email: [kazucena@usaid.gov](mailto:kazucena@usaid.gov)

<http://www.usaid.gov/sv>

<http://elsalvador.usembassy.gov/>

## **WORKSHOP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT IS HELD A YEAR AFTER CAFTA START UP**

**SAN SALVADOR**– The U.S. Embassy, through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Trade Policy Program, inaugurated today a workshop entitled, "Facilitating Trade and Investment in the Context of CAFTA."

The workshop objective is to analyze how to improve and maximize the efficiency of processes that lead to business deals as well as to exchange ideas between the public and private sector on workshop topics. Likewise, the workshop is intended to cover important issues on custom procedures within the CAFTA context and to discuss gradually fulfilled treaty provisions.

"The signing of the Free Trade Agreement between the countries in the region and the United States is a clear example of the new commercial dynamics that involve our countries. USAID is committed to support the Salvadoran government's efforts to facilitate Salvadoran and foreign businesses to start their trade and investment in the country, increasing in a significant and sustainable way economic growth and quality employment," said the USAID Mission Director Deborah Kennedy-Iraheta during the workshop inauguration.

Minister of Economy Yolanda de Gavidia listed the achievements after the first year of the CAFTA-DR start up. She mentioned the fact that out of 175 countries El Salvador is among the top 10 reforming countries with the "Starting a Business" indicator, according to the World Bank report, "Doing Business."

"We need to consider that these indicators are a reflection of how we are seen from the outside, and that they are a source for other indicators, such as the indicators of the Millennium Challenge Account, which we are obliged to fulfill," said the minister.

Workshop topics include: Improving Processes to Grant Construction Licenses; Integrity in the Government and Businesses; Loan Access; Closing a Business; Legal Implementation of CAFTA; Risk and Account System Management; Advanced CAFTA Criteria; Rules of Origin; Applied Technology / SIDUNEA; and Simplified CAFTA Procedures. The workshop will gather on March 6 and 7 representatives of the public and private sector and will include the participation and facilitation of international experts.

# # #